#### **FINAL REPORT**

## MARSHALL STREET ARMORY HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

## PROPOSED MARSHALL STREET ARMORY HISTORIC DISTRICT

# **330 MARSHALL STREET**

## LANSING, MICHIGAN

## December 6, 2010

### **CHARGE OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS STUDY COMMITTEE**

The Marshall Street Armory Historic District Study Committee was established by the Lansing City Council on May 10, 2010 pursuant to Chapter 1220 of the Lansing Code of Ordinances with the powers and duties thereunder to conduct studies and make reports and recommendations regarding the former Marshall Street Armory, 300 Elvin Court. (Note: the address of the property has since been changed to 330 Marshall Street.) The committee is instructed to report back to City Council with its findings within 180 days of members being appointed.

### STUDY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jason Kildea of the Gillespie Group, is the applicant's designated representative on the Historic District Study Committee.

Cassandra Nelson has a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation, is former preservation specialist for the Michigan Department of Transportation, and serves on the Historic District Commission.

*Mary Toshach* has a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation, is a former historic preservation planner and consultant, and serves on the Historic District Commission.

*Nathalie Winans* is a Research Associate at Public Policy Associates, Incorporated, a nationally focused public policy research firm, and serves on the Historic District Commission. Her specialty areas include land use, urban and regional planning, urban revitalization, and historic preservation/adaptive reuse.

### **INVENTORY**

The property is in process of being individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This report uses the information contained in the nomination.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT**

The district consists of slightly less than a four-and-a-half-acre parcel located on the east side of Marshall Street, south of Saginaw Avenue. The two-story, red-brick, Tudor Revival inspired Lansing Artillery Michigan National Guard Armory is located northeast of downtown Lansing on the north edge of a residential neighborhood. The

large rectangular shaped building is on elevated ground with a raised basement. The building has limestone trim and ornamentation throughout. The main entrance is accessed by a central stair and features a carved stone eagle resting on a Tudor arch above the front door. A stone panel with a carving of crossed cannons is centered in the crenellated parapet wall. The building was constructed in 1924 and designed by Lynn W. Fry. A 1941 renovation was designed by Lansing architects Lee Black and Kenneth C. Black. The renovation was minor and included some alterations to the basement as well adding a gravel drive and concrete loading area to the east side of the site. The property originally contained a riding hall, several storage buildings and a vehicle storage building (1941) north of the existing building which have all been demolished.

To the north and west of the property are the athletic fields, parking lots and grounds of the Pattengill Middle School and the Lansing Catholic Central High School. The armory building faces south on a small park separating it from the adjacent residential neighborhood. The small park in front of the building is a flat grassy area with a few small trees. It contains a circular asphalt drive bisected by a concrete walkway with a flagpole in the center. The asphalt drive that enters from Marshall Street leads to an asphalt paved parking lot on the west side of the building, past the front and to the east side where there is a gravel parking area. The site is generally flat except for where the ground cuts away with concrete retaining walls on the north and east sides giving access to the basement level. The rear two-third of the building is surrounded by a chain link fence. Overgrown shrubs are located in front of the building. A concrete ramp with metal railing runs along the west half of the front of the building to access the front doors.

The building plan is typical of that for armories of the period, with a two-story headhouse or administration area in the front and a two-story drill hall behind. The drill hall has one-story wings running along both sides. The front section and drill hall have gable roofs, the wings flat roofs.

The symmetrical façade has a central projecting entrance bay flanked by three bays on each side. The entrance bay contains a set of three aluminum and glass doors, with arched top transoms, below a stone Tudor arch resting on brick piers. A carved stone eagle with spread wings is perched over the center of the arch. The second floor contains three single windows topped by a large stone band. There is a square stone medallion with a crossed cannon relief in the center of the gable parapet. The entrance bay is flanked by heavy brick piers which step back and have center spikes at the tops. The entire bay is capped by stone coping and trim along the top of the wall.

The three bays on both sides of the entrance are divided by brick piers, and have pairs of aluminum windows at the first and second floor. The wide stone band above the second floor contains blind shallow arches above the window bays. The entire wall is topped by a brick parapet wall with stone coping and a crenel in the center of each bay.

The front section of the building is three bays deep, the bays separated by brick piers, and containing aluminum windows at the first and second floors. The heavy stone band continues from the front of the building at the top of the second floor windows. The gable parapets are capped with stone trim.

The east and west sides of the building are each seven bays long, the bays again divided by brick piers that continue in the taller drill hall wall which is set back. Each bay at the first and second levels contains a set of three aluminum windows except the bay at the rear which has two aluminum windows. The lower and upper

walls are capped with limestone trim, and the upper wall has a crenel in the center of each bay. The west side basement level is not above ground, and has a pair of solid metal doors and concrete loading dock toward the rear of the building. The east side basement level is at ground level and each bay contains a single metal door beside a pair of aluminum windows in each bay.

The rear of the building is divided into three sections. The center section is not quite two stories tall and contains no openings except for an overhead rolling garage door in the center at ground level. The west third has a higher ground level and has a set of double doors and two aluminum windows at the first floor level. A tall brick chimney rises above this section. The east third is at the lower level and has a single door and two windows at ground level with three single aluminum windows above at the first floor. All of the sections have stone coping at the roof line.

## **INTERIOR FEATURES**

The front doors lead to an interior set of decorative wood doors entering a main lobby that has quarry tile floors, painted glazed block walls and a plaster ceiling. The east side of the lobby accesses the metal stair leading to the basement and second floor. It also leads to the officers' club in the front of the building which has been remodeled with carpeted floors, painted glazed block walls and a tile ceiling. The west side of the lobby leads to a double-loaded corridor containing offices and restrooms. To the north of the lobby two sets of wood paneled double-doors lead to the drill hall. It has a wood floor that is painted for basketball and the center of the court has the double-crossed cannon motif. There is a stage at the north end of the hall, while the west side of the hall has walls between columns. The truss ceiling currently supports a suspended acoustical tile ceiling. The tile ceiling and present stage configuration are not original or significant and occurred sometime after the 1941 renovation. The north end of the hall leads to a kitchen, the backstage area, and a metal stair leading to the basement level.

The second floor has a central lobby with windows overlooking the drill hall and a wood and glass skylight in the center. Double-loaded corridors branch off each side of the lobby. The corridors contain offices, a movie projection booth and restrooms. The walls are either painted or covered with wood paneling. There is plaster and dropped acoustical tile ceilings.

The basement has a large set of wood double-doors at the north end which lead to a wide hallway with storage rooms on either side. In the front of the building the stair lobby has quarry tile floors and glazed block walls. The front basement section also contains an enlisted men's lounge, restrooms and locker rooms. The small vault rooms on the east side were added in the 1941 renovation as were the metal grills covering the basement windows. Interior features are not subject to review.

# **COUNT OF HISTORIC AND NON-HISTORIC RESOURCES**

There is one historic and zero non-historic resources in the district which consist of one historic building. One hundred percent of the resources contribute to the district.

#### **BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

A Parcel of land, being part of the Northeast ¼ of Section 15, T4N, R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan being more particularly described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 15, T4N, R2W: thence S01 44′44″W, 1600.25 feet along the East line of said Section 15 also being the West line of Adam's Addition to the City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan (Liber 4, page 25) to the Northeast corner of Longyear's addition to the City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan (Liber 2, Page 17); thence N88 53′28″W, 369.49 feet along the North line of said Longyear's Addition and the North line of J.B. Rayner's Addition to the City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan (Liber 3, Page 20) to the point of beginning of the following described parcel; thence continuing N88 53′28′W, 390.06 feet along said North line and the North line of Brown's Insurance Agency Addition to the City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan (Liber 4, page 15) and the North line of Rumsey's Michigan Avenue Addition to the City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan (Liber 2, Page 12) to the East line of Marshall Street; thence S88 53′28″E, 388.16 feet; thence S01 30′42″W, 502.98 feet to the point of beginning.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The property is the entire parcel remaining from the land historically associated with the armory. Other portions that do not contain buildings were previously sold by the State of Michigan to other owners. To the south is a residential neighborhood and to the north and west are two newer schools with associated athletic fields and parking lots.

### HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT

# The Michigan National Guard

The Michigan National Guard had its beginnings as a territorial volunteer militia which was based on the model of the militias in other areas of the United States, operating as a community based defense (Mannik & Smith 2009, 5-1). Territorial laws enacted in 1787 and 1792 applied to Michigan when it became part of the Northwest Territory in 1796. These early laws required male citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 to serve in the military and provide their own firearms, ammunition and equipment. After Michigan became a separate territory in 1805 it enacted its own militia law which required all males between the ages of 14 and 50 to serve, and allowed the territorial governor to organize the troops, appoint officers, set training days, and direct other related routine activities (CCRG 1996, 6).

The territorial militia was called to official duty three times before Michigan became a state in 1837. The first was during the War of 1812 during the ill-fated invasion of Upper Canada. Two hundred men participated under then governor William Hull, who ended up surrendering his troops to the British with their capture of Detroit (Mannik & Smith 2009, 5-1). Michigan militia were also involved with the second battle of Frenchtown in January 1813. The second call to service was in 1832 during the Black Hawk War when troops were ordered to lowa to assist. However, the troops were quickly recalled when it became apparent they were not needed. The Toledo War of 1835 also brought the troops into service, but without combat when the boundary dispute between the Michigan Territory and the State of Ohio ended peacefully.

During the Patriot War of 1838 State of Michigan militia were assigned to guard the U.S. arsenal at Fort Dearborn from Michigan sympathizers who plotted to steal arms for a Canadian effort to fight English crown appointed administrators. In 1839 the Michigan legislature enacted a law that created a brigade called the State Guards for defense of the state. In 1846 the United States government requested specific numbers of troops from each state to aid in the Mexican War. The First Michigan Volunteers went into service for six months but never saw battle in Vera Cruz where they were stationed (*ibid*, 5-2).

Between 1848 and 1861 few men were interested in volunteering for the state militia and the annual tax was abolished in 1848. However in 1859 the state created the State Military Board and appropriated three thousand dollars annually for the militia and required a four-day encampment each year (*ibid.*, 5-2).

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Michigan men answered the call to serve in the militia. Initially the First Regiment was organized and was the first group from west of the Alleghenies to reach Virginia. By the end of 1861 Michigan had sent 16,475 men to the front while others guarded Michigan from Canadian sympathizers. In 1863 a national draft was instituted and by the end of the war 90,747 men from Michigan had served (CCRG 1996, 8).

The enthusiasm for military service was short-lived. By 1870 only three militia companies operated in the state. The legislature officially organized volunteer companies called the Michigan State Troops. This resulted in an increase in service; by 1876 the full contingent allowed by law of twenty-four companies had been organized.

State militias across the country were called out in response to labor unrest in the 1880s and 90s, which also resulted in changes to military law in Michigan and other states. Beginning in 1891 the Michigan State Troops were called the Michigan National Guard and they joined the Interstate Guard Association which later was absorbed into the National Guard Association. Both organizations emphasized their separation from the regular military.

The Spanish-American War brought a call for volunteer militia members; however, only individuals could volunteer, not entire units. The Michigan men that volunteered were organized into four Michigan Volunteer Infantry regiments, two of which saw combat in Cuba (Mannik and Smith 2009, 5-3).

In 1903 the United States government passed the Dick Bill, named for the president of the National Guard Association, Major General Charles Dick. This legislation provided an annual federal appropriation of four million dollars for state militias and provided the units with standard military weapons and uniforms and pay for members called to active duty. In turn the units were required to have twenty-four drill days and a five-day summer encampment each year. Regular Army officers were assigned to help train the units and new types of units were formed including medical, engineer, and signal companies. This law also required the President of the United States to call National Guard members into active service before other volunteers, but did not allow for the units to remain organizationally intact when brought into service with the larger armed forces. Members were called individually into federal service and put into the federal organizational structure. At the state level the units remained intact when called by their respective governors.

The federal attention to the National Guard spurred the Michigan legislature to completely reorganize the Michigan National Guard in 1905 from three infantry units to one engineering company, one signal company,

one battery of field artillery and one calvary troop. At this time the First Battery, Field Artillery was organized with detachments in Lansing, Pontiac and Mason. This did not work and it was quickly changed to have three sections stationed in Lansing and one in Mason. The Pontiac unit was changed to an engineering company.

In 1909 the Michigan legislature invested heavily into the Michigan National Guard by creating an on-going annual appropriation to pay for attendance at drills, and for the construction and purchase of armories. This reliable source of money allowed for the design and construction of armories around the state. The armory appropriation was thirty thousand dollars per year and was deposited into the armory building fund. By 1940 this yearly investment provided for the construction or purchase of thirty-five armories across the state. Prior to 1909 all costs associated with the armories fell to the local community and unit. The passage of the 1909 law gave control of the design, bidding, construction and maintenance of armories to the State Military Board, with the costs for an armory initially limited to fifteen thousand dollars per company occupying the armory. The same costs were allowed for purchasing existing armories if they did not exceed the value of the building and land. For new armories, land was to be provided to the state at no cost, and the 1909 act allowed the state to condemn property to construct armories, and required that the land be owned and managed by the state and not subject to any taxes. Costs exceeding those allowed by the state could be covered by the local municipality and the money was required to be deposited with the state before construction could begin.

The state's use for its National Guard units to control labor unrest was not limited to the last two decades of the 1800s. In 1913 and 1914 three thousand troops were called to the Upper Peninsula during the copper mine strikes. At the request of the mining companies the governor called the troops to "restore order and protect property." The reality was the Guard was being used to oppose organize labor that had initiated the strikes, a low-point in Guard history and a carry-over from the earlier use of the Guard during labor strikes in the late 1800s.

The 1916 National Defense Act established the Reserve Corps, which were free of any state ties. The National Guard was made an integral part of the U.S. Army when in federal service, but at the same time the Guard was still part of the organized militia when activated through individual governors. The President gained the power to draft individual Guardsmen for federal duty, and the law increased annual training days to forty-eight plus fifteen days of annual summer camp. In June 1916 the Michigan National Guard was called into federal service for the Mexican Border Campaign. Three infantry regiments served until November, and upon returning to Michigan the 33<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry was repositioned to guard sensitive sites in Michigan, including Camp Custer.

In July 1917 all units of the Michigan National Guard were called into service for World War I. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was comprised of troops from Michigan and Wisconsin. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division was sent to France in February 1918 and was among the first American troops to enter Germany during the Marnes' offensive. Serving until the armistice in November 1918 the Division lost over 14,000 men, which ranked it third among U.S. Army units in total number of battle deaths (Mannik and Smith 2009, 5-3, 5-4).

With the ending of World War I the contracts of the members of the National Guard that had been drafted into federal service ended and Michigan was essentially left without any National Guard members. In 1920 federal and state laws created another major reorganization of the Michigan National Guard which took two years to

complete. The federal law allowed for the World War I organizational structure to be re-created as closely as possible in the states.

The 1920s and 1930s allowed Michigan National Guard units time for training and education, and armories served as public gathering spaces in local communities. The Army offered special services school and extension courses, and Michigan men used the entire quota allotted.

The Depression increased the membership in the National Guard because of the severe unemployment and the ability to earn money by participating in drills from money provided through New Deal programs (*ibid.*, 5-4). In 1933 an amendment to the National Defense Act made the National Guard part of the United States' permanent military force and required units to be called intact to federal service.

In 1937 Michigan Governor Frank Murphy ordered the Guard to Flint to keep peace during the Flint Sit-Down strike at a number of General Motor's plants. The role of the Guard was much different than during the cooper mine strikes in the Upper Peninsula. The governor refused to use the Guard to remove the strikers from the factories, and instead insisted that the conflict be resolved peacefully through negotiations between General Motors and the union organizers. The Guard were sent to Flint in early-January and remained in place until late-February. The Guard was led by Colonel Joseph H. Lewis, the commander of the 119<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. Colonel Lewis was in constant communication with Governor Murphy and both men went to great lengths to keep the Guard in the background with instruction only to step in when the local officials were not able to keep control. This eventually happened on February 1 when the Guard surrounded two plants to protect the strikers as well as police. Guard members were under strict orders to set aside any personal feelings about the situation and the Guard successfully prevented any bloodshed or destruction of property. "At least part of the credit for the peaceful outcome of the Flint strike must be accorded the Michigan National Guard" (Fine n.d., 319).

In response to military build-up in Europe the entire National Guard was federalized in 1940. This resulted in a reorganization statewide which included changing and adding units. In October 1940 the entire Michigan National Guard was ordered into federal service and sent for training. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Division served in the European and Pacific fronts and had the distinction of the longest service of any American division (CCRG 1996, 10).

Post World War II the Michigan National Guard was again reorganized into state units, with Michigan having 121 units organized between 1946 and 1948, which contained triple the number of men authorized before the war. Since no armories had been constructed in the state since 1930 (the Detroit Artillery armory was constructed as the Vicker's War Plant in 1942-44 and was acquired by the Guard in 1948), most armory facilities were deficient. In 1950 an amendment to the National Defense Act called the Armories Construction Bill provided for federal funding for additions and alterations to existing armories. The program was not fully funded initially and emphasized a seventy-five percent federal to twenty-five percent state match for construction. Four standardized armory plans, designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were circulated nationwide (Mannik and Smith 2009, 5-6).

Michigan National Guard units were called into federal service during the Korean Conflict and the 1961 Cuban Missile Crisis but not the Vietnam War. The Korean Conflict again emphasized the lack of armory facilities and states were encouraged to undertake a building program as the buildings could also be used for civil defense and disaster relief (*ibid.*).

Within Michigan the Guard was called on to suppress riots in Benton Harbor in 1966 and in Detroit in 1967 and 1968. More recently the Guard has aided with natural disaster relief such as the Seney Forest Fire in 1976, the blizzard of 1978, the Kalamazoo tornado in 1980, and winter storms in the Upper Peninsula in 1995. Some members were deployed in the Persian Gulf Conflict in the early 1990s, as well as for peace-keeping missions in Haiti, Bosnia, Panama and Yugoslavia. Since 2001 troops have aided Homeland Security at commercial airports and international border crossings as required (*ibid.*).

# The Michigan National Guard in Lansing

Lansing's first military company was founded after the Civil War and when the State of Michigan officially organized the volunteer Michigan State Troops. On March 17, 1876, Colonel D. Henry McComas organized ninety-seven recruits, including some from two independent military companies, who adopted bylaws and a constitution based on the Detroit Light Infantry. Calling themselves the Lansing Light Guards or Company H of the First Regiment (later changed to Company E), the group had their first annual encampment in Jackson in August, 1876. The first armory for the group was in the building that became the Lansing Business University as of 1887 (Souvenir Governor's Guards 1896, 5-7).

In 1878 the group changed their name to the "Governor's Guards" and in 1880 they attended the encampment of the first brigade of the state troops at Camp Chandler. In 1887 they moved to new quarters on Capitol Avenue where they remained until sometime between 1896 and 1898. In the *1898 Lansing City Directory* Armory Hall is listed as being located at 109-113 East Ottawa. A short history of the unit lists them as "now in 31<sup>st</sup> Rgmt. M.V.I." as a provisional company, with drills every Thursday evening and business meetings the first Monday of each month. It lists the "Armory, north side Ottawa Street, Sanford block, second floor, between Grand Street and Washington Avenue."

The Lansing unit was called twice to assist with labor and civil unrest in the 1880s and 90s. In 1881 the unit reported to Muskegon to quell a riot, which was done without incident. In 1894 the unit was called to the armory to be ready to deploy to Battle Creek. After spending a day at the armory the unit was not needed and the men were allowed to return to their normal routine, with the exception of orders not to leave the city.

On May 17, 1905, a second Lansing unit was organized, Battery A, First Field Artillery. The *1908 Lansing City Directory* lists Battery A, First Field Artillery, in an armory at 319 S. Capitol Avenue. Company E of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry is still listed at their armory at 115 East Ottawa Street. By the 1912 directory, Company E is no longer listed, but First Battalion Field Artillery, Lansing, is listed with two batteries, Battery A founded March 17, 1905, and Battery B founded November 6, 1911, both at the Artillery Armory at 319 S. Capitol. Later histories suggest that Company E was reorganized into the new units in Lansing.

It appears that the armories for the initial and later Lansing military units were rented facilities, even though the armory building fund shows "Appropriations Undrawn" in the amount of \$45,000 for Lansing with the appropriation available as of July 1, 1917. The State Military Board meeting minutes of August 20, 1919, contain the following: "The matter of continuing the lease of the Lansing Armory was introduced and discussed. Motion by Major Rogers that a new lease be entered into for the Lansing Armory at \$1800 per annum with privilege of renewal for one year. Unanimously carried." The minutes of December 5, 1920 read, "Motion that annual

armory allowance of the Lansing Armory (field artillery) be fixed at \$2500 per annum." It is assumed that these rents were for the facility on South Capitol as the city directories list the building as the armory through 1925.

The reorganization of the Michigan National Guard started in 1920 created the 32<sup>nd</sup> Division, and the Lansing unit was designated the 119<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. It received federal recognition in February 1922, was designated as horse-drawn 75 mm, and was made up of all of the previous Lansing units and others. Even though money was appropriated in 1917, the new riding hall for the 119<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was not constructed until 1922. The delay presumably resulted from World War I and post-war recruitment and reorganization. Designed by state architect Lynn W. Fry, the large brick and glass structure had a large open riding floor and storage for equipment. It was located north of the present day armory, but was demolished circa 2000. In 1924 the present armory building was constructed on the property. Also designed by Lynn W. Fry, the two-story brick building contained a drill hall, storage, and offices for the unit as well as room for recreation and social gatherings, including an officer's club. The armory was built during a seventeen year period when Michigan constructed ten armories around the state. At least five of these ten armories were designed by Fry.

During peacetime in the 1920s and 1930s the Lansing armory was used for weddings, boxing matches and community gatherings. It filled a typical role of armories in smaller Michigan communities. The drill hall was large enough to accommodate large groups of people, and the facilities were often rented out. This tradition continued at the Lansing armory at least through 1995 when the Michigan Antique Radio Club leased the facility for swap meets.

In 1933 the 119<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery was converted to a truck-drawn 75mm unit. In 1940 the 119<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery retained its designation, but was slightly reorganized, changed to a 115-mm gun unit, and transferred to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, Corps Auxiliary. In 1941 Lee Black and Kenneth C. Black, architects of Lansing designed modifications to the grounds, riding hall and basement of the armory and designed a vehicle storage facility (demolished).

## Lynn Ward Fry (1894-1967)

The Lansing Armory exhibits a similar form and design as four other armories that were designed by Lynn W. Fry between 1921 and 1925. These include Adrian (1925), Charlotte (1924), Flint (1924), and Holland (1924). The Flint armory has a nearly identical design and layout to Lansing. Other similar armories – all constructed after the passage of the 1909 law establishing the armory building fund, include Ann Arbor (1911), Coldwater (1917-18/1921), Monroe (1926-28), Owosso (1915) and South Haven (1922).

Born in Grand Rapids, Fry received his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Michigan in 1917. He served in World War I as a Second Lieutenant in the artillery in France where he was wounded and eventually trained with the French calvary. Upon returning to Michigan Fry worked in Detroit with Van Leyen-Schilling-Keough and Reynolds from 1919 until 1921 when he was appointed the State Architect for Michigan. It was during this time that Fry designed armories in Adrian, Charlotte, Flint, Holland, Lansing and the re-build of the Coldwater armory. He also designed prisons for the state.

When his appointment ended in 1925 he set up his own practice with Paul Kasurin in Ann Arbor. The firm lasted until 1942 and designed the First National Bank Building in Ann Arbor, the Traverse City Main Sewage Pumping

Station building, the Old Waterworks plant in Detroit, the original Munson Hospital in Traverse City, and Slauson Junior High School in Ann Arbor.

Beginning in 1942 Fry began working for the University of Michigan, first as the Director of Plant Extension, then as university architect in 1945. As university architect Fry was responsible for development of the north campus and hired a number of notable firms to design university buildings including Harley Ellington, Albert Kahn, Eero Saarinen, Holabird and Root, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Giffels and Valet and Minoru Yamasaki. He retired from the University in 1964 and died in Ann Arbor in 1967 at the age of 73 (CCRG 1996 19-20).

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

National Register Criteria A and C are applicable to the proposed Marshall Street Armory Historic District. The period of significance for the district is from 1924 until 1960 which is the time the building was completed until 1960. It ceased being used as an armory in 2005.

# **The National Register Criteria**

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

The Lansing Artillery Michigan National Guard Armory is significant at the local level under criterion A for its role in the military defense of Michigan and for its role in hosting local Lansing events;

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

As a notable example of armory design in Michigan and one of a number of surviving National Guard armories built across Michigan in the early twentieth century as part of a statewide armory building program. It was designed by architect Lynn W. Fry, State Architect from 1921 until 1925, and is one of five Michigan armories designed by him.

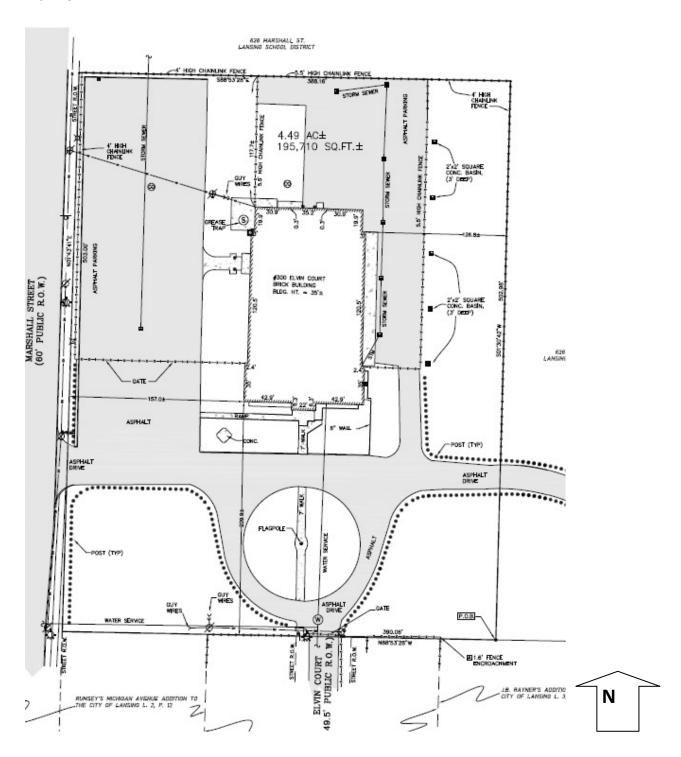
#### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the study committee finds that the Marshall Street Armory located at 330 Marshall Street meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and should be designated as a single resource local historic district. The armory is significant at the local level under criterion A for its role in the military defense of Michigan and for its role in hosting local Lansing events; and under criterion C as a notable example of armory design in Michigan and one of a number of surviving National Guard armories built across Michigan in the early twentieth century as part of a statewide armory building program. It was designed by architect Lynn W. Fry, State Architect from 1921 until 1925, and is one of five Michigan armories designed by him.

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# **DISTRICT MAP**



PROPOSED MARSHALL STREET ARMORY LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - Lansing, Ingham County

District Boundaries – intended to follow the property line

# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1 – South façade of Marshall Street Armory, July 2010



Photo 2– South and east elevations of Marshall Street Armory, July 2010



Photo 3– South and west elevations of Marshall Street Armory, July 2010



Photo 4 – North (rear) elevation of Marshall Street Armory, July 2010



Photo 5 – Detail of front entrance, July 2010